I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur	2	0	73	1	1	3	1
Meghalaya	1	0	58	0	0	2	0
Mizoram	1	0	31	0	0	2	I
Nagaland	1	0	49	0	0	!	18
Sikkim	4 ***	1	7	1	1	2	2
Tripura	2 *	0	25	1	1	1	5
TOTAL:	19	4	680	7	11	53	49

Source: - Selected Educational Statistics - 2004-05, M/o HRD. D/0 Higher Education.

*Figure includes one State University each in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura, which have been converted into Central Univerity *w.e.f.* 9.4.2007 and 2.7.2007 respectively.

** Source: - University Grants Commission (UGC).

***Figure includes a new Central University (Sikkim University), which has been established *w.e.f.* 2.7.2007. In Sikkim, apart from Sikkim University (Central University), there are three private universities, namely, (i) Manipal University, Rangpoo, (ii) ICFAl University, Gangtok, and (iii) Eastern Institute of Integrated Learning and Management (EIILM), Jorethang. In addition, there are four-Degree level Government colleges including one Law college and three Private colleges imparting degree level courses.

Gratuity benefits to teachers

2164. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Supreme Court judgement of 2004 had debarred the teachers of private schools from claiming gratuity benefits unde the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as they were not construed to be workmen; and

(b) whether Government propose to remove the ambiguities in interpretation of the Act, as manifested in the judgement, and if so, the details of the-proposed Government moves to nullify the impact of the Court ruling, by suitable legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 13th January, 2004 in a matter between Ahmedabad Private Primary Teachers' Association *Vs* Administrative Officers and others have ruled that teachers are not intended to be covered for extension of gratuity benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is the Administrative Ministry dealing with this matter, has informed that certain proposals to extend the benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 in respect of teachers in private schools are under process.

Regulatory authority for higher education

2165. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has proposed fo> the setting up of an independent regulatory authority for higher education;